

~~Top Secret~~**SOUTH KOREA-NORTH KOREA-BURMA: Diplomatic Break**

Seoul will use Burma's severing of ties with North Korea to encourage international condemnation of North Korea and to persuade other countries to follow Burma's lead. The South Korean Government welcomed Burma's decision, which followed the official Burmese investigation report blaming North Korea for the bombing in Rangoon that killed 17 South Korean officials last month. Japanese Foreign Minister Abe stated yesterday that Tokyo will take a "severe" position toward North Korea and endorsed condemnation of P'yongyang. North Korea, reacting with unusual speed, has deplored Burma's action in a Foreign Ministry statement and reiterated its charge that South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan was responsible for the bombing. []

Comment: P'yongyang's ties are mostly with Communist and Third World countries, only a small number of which seem likely to take serious diplomatic action against the North. Some countries may be more disposed toward applying informal trade and travel restrictions. Chun may come under renewed pressure from hardliners to retaliate militarily against the North. Seoul, however, remains sensitive to the need not to do anything that could affect President Reagan's visit next week or to damage its own international standing. []

USSR-SEYCHELLES: Soviet Ambassador Talks Tough

The Soviet Ambassador to the Seychelles reportedly told his Swedish counterpart that the USSR is ready to do "exactly what the US has done in Grenada" in the Seychelles if the government of President Rene is threatened. According to the US Embassy, the Soviet diplomat said Moscow was prepared to do everything necessary, including landing troops. []

Comment: The Soviet Ambassador may intend his remarks to be repeated, thereby reinforcing opinion in the Seychelles that the USSR is Rene's primary backer. The Soviet diplomat has developed his position through extensive personal contacts with Rene. As a result, he has been fairly effective in convincing the President that the USSR can help protect him from internal or external opponents. At Rene's request, a Soviet landing ship with naval infantry visited Victoria harbor last month while Rene attended the summit of French-speaking nations in Paris. []

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